

Washington, DC -- On Sunday, March 25, Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-7), attended "A Celebration of Public Education" at Springfield Mall to highlight the value and importance of public education. In addition to meeting with students from numerous Delaware County school districts, Congressman Sestak also read to elementary school children.

"Although today's schools may look different from their predecessors, they still have the same basic goal of providing the best education possible," noted Joe at the event. "That is what I like so much about our public education system. They open up doors for all of our children. Any student can walk through these doors on the first day of school and head down a path that can lead him or her practically anywhere"

More than a dozen Delaware County school districts participated in this public celebration, including students from all grade levels, teachers, administrators and parents. To highlight the diversity and success of the public education system, students conducted performances of their jazz and concert bands, exhibited their art work, and demonstrated different aspects of their current school subjects such as foreign languages, poetry readings, science experiments, and history lessons. For the younger students, the three-day event included group reading sessions, face painting, and puzzles.

"In this knowledge-based economy, a high quality education is more important than ever," noted Joe at the event. "I am proud of the work that is being done at our Delaware County public schools to ensure that every child is educated and prepared for this new information age."

In Congress, Congressman Sestak is a member of the Education and Labor Committee, where he has advocated for a high quality education for all students. He recently held an education summit to provide an opportunity for education stakeholders in the 7th Congressional district to discuss key educational issues with policy makers and education experts. The event consisted of panel discussions on Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education, and Special Education, led by the Honorable George Miller, Chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee, and the Honorable Terrell Halaska, Assistant Secretary of Education.

*Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District*

*of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives.*

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